

MEETING MINUTES

Finance Committee

August 17, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Time – 6:00 P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Mary O'Donoghue, S. Jon Stumpf, Cindy Milne, Richard T. Howe, Mark Merritt, Stephen Stapinski and Paul Fortier.

Also present: Anthony J. Torrisi, Finance Director, Reginald Stapczynski, Town Manager and Steve Bucuzzo, Assistant Town Manager.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of July 13, 2009 were tabled for a future meeting.

BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Stapczynski distributed handouts titled FY10 Budget Deficit (as of 8/17/09) and Local Revenues including the most recent numbers (see attachment). Discussion followed.

Mr. Stapczynski added that he and School Superintendent Dr. Claudia Bach “agree to disagree” on the use of federal stimulus funding to cover SPED costs. Ms. Marden noted changes have been made to make funds available for the schools to use.

AUGUST SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Local Options Meals Tax – Dick Howe moved and Steve Stapinski seconded to recommend approval of Article 1, Local Options Meals Tax. Lengthy discussion ensued with Committee members voicing opposition and support. Those opposing Article 1 expressed concern over the negative impact to small businesses approval of Article 1 may have. Those in support of Article 1 thought that the financial impact of a meals tax would be insignificant and that it would not deter diners from patronizing local restaurants. In addition, that it would be prudent to take advantage of this option at a time when additional money is needed.

Other options discussed relative to cutting the deficit included Town provided automobiles and union contracts. Mr. Bucuzzo informed Committee members that new employees are not receiving “take home cars” as part of their contracts. He added that he as well as other administrators have successfully renegotiated changes to benefit structures in contracts that will save the town money.

The motion failed 5-3.

Dick Howe moved and Mark Merritt seconded to recommend approval of Article 2, Local Options Room Occupancy Tax. Discussion followed. Mr. Torrisi was asked if a vote for

approval is permanent. Mr. Torrasi replied that both the Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax can be rescinded or amended annually.

When asked by Chairman Marden for suggestions on how best to handle the deficit, some Committee members expressed support for cutting positions. Mr. Howe thought that the Finance Committee should take the time to understand Town government and to advocate for core management requirements. Chairman Marden cautioned when cutting positions and services noting the interdependence between Town and School departments in order to operate smoothly.

The motion failed 4-4.

Committee members elected Jon Stumpf to speak on their behalf on Articles 1 and 2 at the August 31st Special Town Meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
2nd Floor Conference Room
7:00 P.M.

Regular Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
2nd Floor Conference Room
7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Lynch
Recording Secretary

LOCAL REVENUES

	COLLECTED FY2006	COLLECTED FY2007	COLLECTED FY2008	Prelim COLLECTED FY2009	5/26/2009 Budget Town Meeting FY2010	8/17/2009 Budget REVISED FY2010
GENERAL FUND REVENUES						
Motor Vehicle Excise	5,000,633	4,563,040	4,806,099	4,519,905	4,244,400	4,519,000
Licenses/Permits	1,785,482	1,866,469	1,961,902	1,198,881	1,764,900	1,198,000
Penalties/Interest	279,900	314,296	410,491	303,184	410,000	303,000
Fines	451,047	463,154	475,184	502,604	475,000	572,000
General Government	286,858	594,734	378,537	699,445	250,000	371,300
Fees	65,969	33,426	57,452	55,645	57,000	55,000
Schools	24,763					
Investment Income	870,581	1,474,892	1,109,225	534,926	600,000	300,000
Hotel/Motel Excise	713,732	976,350	913,853	860,090	913,000	860,000
Library	19,304	23,621	16,443	15,590	16,000	15,000
Medicaid				243,415	270,000	243,000
In lieu of taxes	2,016	2,016	0	154,032	118,000	157,000
TOTAL	9,500,285	10,311,998	10,129,186	9,087,717	9,118,300	8,593,300
						-525,000